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1961 AUGUST 26, 1961  
7:25 PM  
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FROM: BERLIN  
ACTION DEPARTMENT 340, BONN 303, INFORMATION LONDON 227,  
PARIS 234, MOSCOW 222, POLAD USAREUR 204

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE

FOLLOWING IS BERLIN SITUATION AUGUST 26:

TRAFFIC: US MILITARY POLICE CHECK POINT ESTABLISHED AT  
FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CROSSING POINT TO KEEP TABS OF OFFICIAL  
AMERICAN TRAFFIC EAST BERLIN. SEVEN MILITARY SEDANS,  
THREE MILITARY TOUR BUSES, SIX PRIVATE CARS WITH US  
FORCES PLATES SUCCESSFULLY ENTERED EAST BERLIN TODAY  
WITHOUT BEING STOPPED. LARGER THAN USUAL NUMBER SOV  
MILITARY VEHICLES CONTINUING APPEAR WEST BERLIN.

SOV WAR MEMORIAL GUARDS FAILED TO ARRIVE AT SANDKRUG  
BRIDGE WHERE THEY AWAITED BY BRITISH MP PATROL,  
INSTEAD PROCEEDED BY OTHER ROUTE TO MEMORIAL. BRITISH  
BELIEVE MESSAGE TO SOVS PROPOSING SANDKRUG BRIDGE ROUTE  
MAY NOT HAVE ARRIVED IN TIME AND ARE MAKING ANOTHER ATTEMPT  
TO GET SOVS TO THIS ROUTE.

ALLIED BORDER PATROL ACTIVITY CONTINUING WITH BRITISH  
MAKING SPECIAL POINT SENDING PATROLS TO THEIR SECTOR  
EXCLAVE EISKELLER, WHICH CONNECTED BRITISH SECTOR BY  
NARROW ROAD UNDER BRITISH CONTROL.

BASE:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/NB

REVIEWED BY *H. H. H.* DATE 8/26/61

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ACTION	ACTION	NOTES
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OFFICE SYMBOL <i>B-57</i>	ACTION	REPORT

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-2- 340, AUGUST 26, 9 P.M. FROM BERLIN

BASC: INCOMING SHIFT OF SOV. CONTROLLERS NEGOTIATED CROSSING AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE WITHOUT INCIDENT, WERE KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY U. S. MILITARY PATROL THROUGHOUT WEST BERLIN LEG OF TRIP TO ACA BUILDING. SOV. CHIEF CONTROLLER ON ARRIVAL REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH US CHIEF CONTROLLER, OBJECTED TO ESCORT AND PARTICULARLY TO PRESENCE OF GERMAN POLICE ON SCENE. HE SAID HE DID NOT WISH HIS STAFF CAR ACCOMPANIED IN ANY MANNER THAT WOULD ATTRACT ATTENTION OF GERMAN POPULACE. ON INSTRUCTION OF MISSION, US CONTROLLER TOLD SOV CONTROLLER THAT HIS SECURITY WHILE IN US SECTOR WAS RESPONSIBILITY US AUTHORITIES AND THAT UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS WE CONSIDERED IT ADVISABLE PROTECT HIS VEHICLE; THIS NOT FORMAL ESCORT, AND HE FREE TO TRAVEL WITHOUT HINDRANCE ANYWHERE IN US SECTOR. HE APPEARED SATISFIED BUT SAID HE STILL HOPED WE COULD IN NEAR FUTURE CEASE PRACTICE "ACCOMPANYING HIS CAR. HE FELT WE COULD "DEVISE DIFFERENT MEANS" ASSURING HIS SAFETY THAT WOULD NOT ATTRACT ATTENTION OF GERMANS. WE AGREED CONSIDER AND OFFERED REDISCUSS WITH HIM MONDAY. HE ACCEPTED. SOV CONTROLLER'S REFERENCE TO GERMAN POLICE RESULTS FROM ATTEMPTS BY LATTER TO PARTICIPATE ESCORT YESTERDAY AND THEIR APPEARANCE ENROUTE TODAY. SENAT HAD ORDERED WEST BERLIN POLICE ESCORT ALL SOV VEHICLES IN WEST BERLIN. THIS ORDER SINCE COUNTERMANDED AT OUR BEHEST, AND POLICE WARNED PARTICULARLY AGAINST INJECTING SELVES SOV BASE TRAVEL SURVEILLANCE OPERATION. WE CONSIDER CONTINUED SURVEILLANCE NECESSARY TO PRECLUDE INCIDENTS OR SOV CLAIMS OF INCIDENTS BUT HAVE ORDERED SURVEILLANCE VEHICLE FOLLOW SOV CAR AT DISCREET DISTANCE.

ACCORDING PRESS, EAST GERMANS HAVE ESTABLISHED ADDITIONAL CHECK POINT ON BERLIN-MUNICH AUTOBAHN AT POINT WHERE AUTOBAHN BRANCHES OFF LEADING TO ZONAL BORDERCROSSING POINT TOEPEN-JUCHOEH.\* INTERZONAL TRAFFIC MOVING NORMALLY.

WEST BERLIN: WEEKEND PROMISES BE BUSY ONE FOR WEST BERLIN POLICE AGENCIES WHEN WEST BERLINERS OFF FROM WORK BEGIN TO SWELL

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-3- 340, AUGUST 26, 9 PM, FROM BERLIN

SWELL ALREADY SIZEABLE CROWDS AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CROSSING POINT AND OTHER KEY SPOTS ON SECTOR-SECTOR BORDER. FULL-SCALE LOUDSPEAKER WAR NOW IN PROGRESS. STRATEGICALLY LOCATED EAST BERLIN LOUDSPEAKERS BROADCASTING SLOGANS, SPEECHES, MUSIC, AND LOUDSPEAKERS IN WEST BERLIN CARRYING NEWS BROADCASTS AND MUSIC, ATTEMPT DROWN EACH OTHER OUT. CROWDS ESTIMATED AT ONE TO TWO THOUSAND PERSONS ARE FORMING IN WEST BERLIN AND, INFURIATED BY CONTENT OF BROADCASTS CARRIED BY EAST LOUDSPEAKERS, HAVE SHOWN SIGNS OF GETTING OUT OF HAND, IN ONE INSTANCE STONING VOPOS/WEST BERLIN POLICE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN ABLE CONTROL CROWDS, IN SOME CASES NOT BEFORE VOPOS EMPLOYED TEAR GAS BOMBS AND WATER THROWERS AGAINST CROWDS. ONE INSTANCE REPORTED OF VOPOS FIRING WARNING SHOTS. ON POLICE REQUEST, BRITISH COMMANDANT HAS AUTHORIZED BERLIN POLICE EMPLOY TWO UNITS OF FORCE B IN BRITISH SECTOR IF NEEDED. USE OF FORCE B REQUIRES PERMISSION SECTOR COMMANDANT.

INTERIOR SENATOR LIPSNHITZ ISSUED PUBLIC APPEAL ABSTAIN FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST S-BAHN TERRITORY AND SOV VEHICLES. POLICE HAVE ARRESTED SEVERAL ROWDIES CAUGHT VANDALIZING S-BAHN TRAINS AND PREMISES.

SEVERAL INSTANCES REPORTED LAST FEW DAYS OF REMOVAL S-BAHN EQUIPMENT (TOOLS, MACHINERY) AND TRACK FROM FRENCH SECTOR INTO EAST BERLIN OR SOVZONE BY WORKMEN FROM EAST, IN AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE WITH PROTECTION OF VOPOS. FRENCH INVESTIGATING.

SENAT CARRIED CAMPAIGN AGAINST COMMUNIST AGENCIES STEP FURTHER BY CLOSING DOWN ALL FIVE OFFICES OF FDGB (COMMUNIST FREE GERMAN TRADE UNION), AND EIGHT OFFICES OF FDJ (COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION). OPERATION CARRIED OUT WITHOUT INCIDENT. SOURCES INSIDE POLICE INFORM US POLICE EXPECTING ORDERS EARLY NEXT WEEK CLOSE DOWN WEST BERLIN OFFICES OF COMMUNIST GERMAN WOMAN'S ALLIANCE (DVFB) AND ASSOCIATIONS OF PERSECUTEES OF NAZISM (VVN).

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-4- 340, AUGUST 26, 9 PM, FROM BERLIN

FEDERAL ECONOMICS MINISTER ERHARD, COMMANDER IN CHIEF FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY, CREPIN, AND AMERICAN GENERAL CHARLES PALMER, DEPUTY CINC US EUCOM, VISITED BERLIN AND INSPECTED SECTOR BORDERS.

TWO INSTANCES REPORTED IN WHICH WEST BERLINERS WERE PREVENTED ATTENDING FUNERALS OF FAMILY MEMBERS IN EAST BERLIN. WEST BERLIN BEREAVED LEFT FLOWER WREATHES AT OR NEAR SECTOR BORDER. PRESS GIVING MAXIMUM EXPLOITATION.

RADIO CABLES SERVICING RIAS BROADCAST FACILITY AT BERLIN RADIO EXHIBITION AT FUNZTURM WERE CUT BY UNKNOWN PERSONS, APPARENTLY DELIBERATELY. SERVICE WILL BE RESTORED IN TIME FOR SCHEDULED EVENING BROADCAST. POLICE INVESTIGATING.

DOWLING

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